



HORSE & PONY RULES



All exhibitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules and requirements for the show. * **This includes the 4-H & FFA General Rules, Rules for Large Animals, Horse & Pony Rules, Fairground Rules, and all applicable contracts with the Horse Committee. If you need ANY clarification, contact the horse committee prior to fair!**

➤ Exhibitors must be enrolled Gallatin County 4-H Horse Project members. All horse project members will pay a ***\$2.00/lot entry fee except for options or a maximum of \$12.00/member or \$20.00/family** with hardship clause to participate in the Gallatin County Fair. These fees will be used to offset the cost of hiring judges and other special show costs. Fees are due with completed Fair Entry Form by 4-H entry deadline.

* **All exhibitors must sign and return a "Going to Fair" contract. Contract is due with entry form and fees.**

* **All animals must have a current health certificate before stabling. Visibly lame or sick horses will not be allowed to compete at fair without veterinary approval.**

➤ All animals must stay for the full duration unless otherwise approved by the Horse Committee; this includes taking them home at night. * **An "Early Removal" Contract must be completed and submitted to the Horse Committee prior to Fair. The only exception will be with a veterinary recommendation during fair or if an exhibitor is asked to leave for rule violations. Violations of this rule will result in forfeiture of stall deposit and all premium monies.**

➤ A \$7.00 stock fee will be charged to members entering Ranch Horse Classes with cattle.

➤ Classes are open to fillies, mares, and geldings. **AFTER JUNE 1ST, NO UNGELED COLTS OF ANY AGE.**

➤ The Horse Committee will judge all Independent Study Horse Projects at a designated time.

* **All exhibitors must show their project animal only! A project identification card must have been turned in to the 4-H office by May 1st on each project animal to be shown at fair. If an animal is injured and cannot be used, exceptions to this rule may be made at the discretion of the Horse Committee.**

➤ **DRESS CODE:** Approved riding helmets are strongly recommended in all Western classes and mandatory in English classes. **Western** - Long sleeve blouse or shirt, western type pants, clean riding helmets in good condition or western hat; cowboy boots that are clean and polished, belt must be worn if pants have belt loops; **OPTIONAL:** gloves, ties, vests, jackets, chaps and spurs. Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid. **Bareback Equitation-Western - Helmets are MANDATORY!** Otherwise, same as western except chaps, spurs and crops are prohibited. **Bareback Equitation-English - Helmets are MANDATORY.** Long sleeve shirt must be worn without jacket, clean riding helmets in good condition required; chaps, spurs, and crops are prohibited. **Hunt Type** - Hunt Coat (red, scarlet or pink coats prohibited unless exhibitor has earned them as a member of a recognized hunt), breeches, hunt boots, clean riding helmets in good condition required; stocks, chokers or ties required; **OPTIONAL:** gloves, unroweled spurs and whip (crop or bat). Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid. **Saddle Type** - Jacket and Jodhpurs, Derby, helmet, soft hat or top hat, Jodhpur boots, gloves, stock, chokers, or ties are required; unroweled spurs and crops are optional. Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid.

➤ **BITS:** **Western** - Horse 4 years and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Snaffle bits and bosals must be ridden 2 handed except when opening and closing gates. **It is mandatory that horses 5 years and over are ridden in a curb bit.** Curb or shank bits must be ridden 1 handed. Flat chain(s) or flat leather chin straps ½" or wider are required with a curb or shank bit of any kind. Six years old and older horses shown in the Green Horse Classes may be shown in a snaffle or bosal. **English** - English snaffle (no shank), kimblewick, Pelham and/or full bridle (with 4 reins) all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands must be used. In addition, to be acceptable, bits must meet United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) requirements. **Snaffle Bit** - A bit with no shanks, which works on the outside bars, lips and corners of the horse's mouth. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single, rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 3/8" to ¾" diameter metal. There are also non-jointed bar type snaffle bits. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of the loose type, eggbutt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. If an optional curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins. **Curb Bit** - A bit designed to put pressure on the bars of the horse's mouth and poll. It may have a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a Standard Western Bit. A Standard Western Bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 ½". Shanks may be fixed or loose. The mouthpiece will consist of a smooth round metal bar 3/8" to ¾" in diameter. They may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs on solid mouthpieces. The port must be no higher than 3" maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spares are standard. **Slip or Gag bits, and Donut and Flat Polo mouthpieces are prohibited.** Roping bits with both reins connected to single rein at center of crossbar shall not be used, except in ranch horse and rodeo. Reins must be attached to each shank. A curb strap must be used with a curb bit. Curb straps must be at least ½" in width and lay flat against the jaw of the horse. **Bosal** - A braided rawhide or leather bosal no larger than ¾" diameter at the cheek may be used rather than a snaffle bit. The bosal must be adjusted so that there is a minimum of a 1-finger space (approximately ") between the bosal and nose; absolutely no metal under the jaw or on the noseband in connection with the bosal. The bosal should be properly fitted relative to the horse's size and conformation.